

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/ISM:WCLENAHAN
APPROVED BY EB/ISM:ACHEWITT
ARA/AND/BL:RPACE
BUMINES:KHARRIS

-----072243Z 110314 /45

O P 072129Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS STATE 078144

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ITC

SUBJECT: BU MINES VISIT TO LA PAZ

1. UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE ITC, THE RECENTLY FORMED ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL WILL MEET JUNE 8 TO EVALUATE MARKET PRICE, COST AND PRODUCTION TRENDS IN THE TIN INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS TO THE ITC MEETIN IN JULY. BOLIVIAN AND OTHER PRODUCERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT COST AND OTHER RELEVANT DATA TO THE PANEL FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

2. BECAUSE BOLIVIA'S SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN INCOMPLETE IN THE PAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A THREE MAN BUMINES TEAM TO BOLIVIA TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE BOLIVIAN TIN INDUSTRY WHICH WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO THE
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US DELEGATION AT THE JUNE PANEL MEETING. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THEIR PROPOSAL INFORMALLY WITH CARLOS ITURALLDE, AMBASSADOR CRESPO AND PEDRO ZILVETI (COMIBOL'S NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE) ALL OF WHOM WELCOME THE TEAM'S VISIT.

3. ACCORDINGLY, IF EMBASSY AGREES, THE BUMINES TEAM WILL VISIT BOLIVIA APRIL 9-25 TO MEET WITH EMBASSY, GOB MINING

OFFICIALS, COMIBOL, ENAF AND SELECTED MEDIUM MINERS. THE

TEAM WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN NEW INVESTMENT;
PROJECTED TIN PRODUCTION THROUGH 1980; GENERAL COSTS OF
PRODUCTION AND UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF THE BOLIVIAN TIN INDUSTRY
WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ITS HIGH COSTS. THE TEAM EXPECTS
TO ARRIVE IN LA PAZ ON BN 909 AT 2215, SATURDAY, APRIL 9
WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH EMBASSY, AND GOB OFFICIALS ON
APRIL 10-11, PLANS TO VISIT VARIOUS MINES AND THE ENAF
SMELTER APRIL 12-23, RETURNING TO LA PAZ ON APRIL 25 FOR
FINAL MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY ON APRIL 25 BEFORE DEPARTING
FOR BRAZIL. WHILE IN BOLIVIA, THE TEAM WOULD LIKE TO
VISIT THE ENAF SMELTER, TWO COMIBOL MINES AND THE COMIBOL
VOLITIZATION PLANT, AND THREE-FOUR MEDIUM MINES.

4. THE BUMINES TEAM WILL INCLUDE SHELDON WIMPFREN, BUMINE
CHIEF ENGINEER; KEITH HARRIS, BUMINES TIN SPECIALIST
(AND ADVISOR TO THE US DELEGATION TO THE ITC); AND CARLOS
AGUIRRE, BUMINES CONSULTANT. AGUIRRE IS A BOLIVIAN
WHO WILL SERVE AS TRANSLATOR AND WILL ASSIST IN MAKING
APPOINTMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL MINE MANAGERS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF THE EMBASSY AGREES
TO THE VISIT OF THE BUMINES TEAM. IF SO: 1) RESERVE THREE
SINGLESAT AUTO CRILLON OR COPACABANA HOTEL APRIL 9-12, AND
APRIL 23-25; 2) ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY
GOB AND COMIBOL OFFICIALS; AND 3) ADVISE CARLOS ITURALLDE
OR RAUL ESPANA (SEC GENERAL OF MEDIUM MINES ASSOCIATION)
OF TEAM'S VISIT. WE EXPECT THE BUMINES TEAM TO ARRANGE
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VISITS TO INDIVIDUAL MINES, BUT THE TEAM WOULD WELCOME ANY
ASSISTANCE THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE. THE TEAM WOULD, OF
COURSE, WELCOME PRESENCE OF REGIONAL RESOURCE ATTACHE
CURREY OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS IN LA PAZ MEETINGS AND MINE
VISITS.

COMMENT: DEPARTMENT REGRETS THE SHORT NOTICE OF THE TEAM'S
VISIT, BUT THE BUMINES TEAM IS AVAILABLE ONLY DURING THE
NEXT THREE WEEKS. IF GOB QUESTIONS WHY WE HAVE SINGLED
OUT BOLIVIA FOR ATTENTION, YOU MAY ADVISE THEM THAT WE
WILL BE PERFORMING SURVEYS IN BRAZIL AND THAILAND DURING
NEXT TWO MONTHS AND HOPE TO COVER MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND
AUSTRALIA LATER THIS YEAR.
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